

Priest Workgroup in Priest, ID
Meeting Notes
10/29/03

Attendees: Forest Service – Kathy Murphy, Gary Ford, and Jodi Kramer, Facilitator – Sherry Munther. Public – Mitch Silvers, Tom Perlic, Lucas Wingert, Twila Little, Wendell Little, Kris Howell, Don Howell, Fields Cobb, Wendy Booth, Mark Sprengel Dan Whiting, Tom Holman, Craig Hill, Richard Benscoter, Margaret Hall, Steve Booth, Jeff Connolly, Kathy Rainey, Mike Sudnikovich, Joanne Hirabayashi, Mark Compton, Loren Kendall, Mark Kabush, Bob Davis, Dr. George Freibott IV, Pat Connelly, Mike Allard and Ken Wimer.

Sherry Munther (facilitator) briefly covered the agenda for the meeting: Purpose of the meeting; Ground Rules; Introductions; Purpose of the Workgroup; Discuss list of comments from June meetings; Share other documents and what the revision team is working on; and Where do we go from here.

Sherry got the group to agree with the Ground Rules. Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves and if they were affiliated with an organization.

Kathy Murphy (District Ranger) welcomed everyone and shared what a Forest Plan is, what it does and what it doesn't do. She shared that the Forest Supervisor is the decision-maker in the Forest Plan decisions. Kathy also covered the Purpose of the Workgroup. She re-emphasized that we are not going to be making site-specific road and trail decisions in the Forest Plan, but through these workgroups and other means, we will be discussing access in relation to area allocations and motorized-cross-country travel. The purpose of the workgroup is threefold: 1) work together to develop products for consideration in the planning process; 2) work together to learn about the workgroup's interests and understand the complexities of decision making; 3) develop and enhance relationships.

Questions:

- When we submit questions, when and how do we get questions answered? If we disagree with a decision or something, there is no answer or dialogue that discusses other possibilities and before we know it, the draft document is out for review. Most of the time that this occurs is with disagreement with the science being used. What is the role of science and are you using the best science?
- Another question related to science, is how do we then take these concerns to the USF&WS and make changes there?
- Yes, it may be interesting to discuss science but will it be fruitful for the group to pursue this or would it make more sense to deal with an issue that will make a difference in the forest plan revision process?
- Do local groups have more say in decisions made about the forest around them vs. people in the Nation?
- As a workgroup, will the workgroup be working together on all the revision topics and not be a polarized group? Concern of lack of development of understanding everyone's viewpoints and discussion amongst all workgroup members and their interests. Concern that people don't get so focused on their particular issue and forget about the bigger picture.
- Who are the other members of the planning team and how often do you meet?
- Do the Forest Service people actually get out-on-ground to actually see what is out in the woods?

Jodi Kramer (PAO on revision team) briefly shared the comments that were heard at the June 2003 meetings and that basically access is the issue that is of most importance to this workgroup. These can also be found on the website in addition to the meeting notes from the Workgroup meetings. www.fs.fed.us/kipz. She also reiterated that when looking at access we will also need to look at the parameters that go into the decision-making process to understand what decisions we can make and where. These can also be found on the website in addition to the meeting notes from the Workgroup meetings.

Gary Ford (Revision team leader) shared information about the Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS). Basically the AMS is a document that talks about the existing condition and what needs to change from the 1987 Forest Plan. Gary reiterated that what's different in this round of planning is that we want the public involved at the beginning of the process and throughout the entire process. Gary addressed the science question posed earlier in the meeting and how we determine the best science and how controversial this issue is. Gary shared that there is a meeting on Nov. 3rd in Libby at 6:30 pm to bring some of the regulatory agencies together to provide information about how they fit into forest plan revision and answer questions from the public.

Kathy opened up discussion about where do we go from here. About 2/3 people raised their hands that they are interested in getting a workgroup started for Priest.

Questions:

- What are some examples of products can the workgroup develop to provide to the revision team? What does a product look like?
- Can we get an email about new products (newsletters etc.) that have been added to our website?
- Can we get a list of the URLs with links to documents? Can these be emailed?
- Can we get a list of the URLs for the forests that are in revision or have completed revision?
- Identified people missing from this meeting – representation from the USF&WS.
- How can we coordinate our input to the revision team and how often do they meet?
- Are Geographic Areas different than Management Areas?
- Suggestion that we need to discuss the revision topics in the context of ICEBMP, it will at least give us a starting point in regards to the best science issue. Should have this discussion along with discussing the access issue.

Possible agenda items:

- Forest Service Decision Space
- 1987 Forest Plans and planning process – what the planning team is required to do over the next 2 years and the timeline.
- What a product looks like (example of a DFC) and how we will use it on the revision team
- Other forest products

Needs:

- URLs with links to our documents and send them in an email to all GA workgroup email users.
- URLs for the forests that are in revision or have completed revision.
- Link on website to ICEBMP.
- Check website if the 1987 Forest Plan overview is on their.

Homework:

- Geographic Area Map Packets that discuss Decision Space (found on the website on the front page, click on “Geographic Area Information” under What’s New on the Website.
- Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) – also on the website, available on cd and in hard copy.
- Website

Decisions:

- **Next meeting – Nov. 5th (Weds), 6:00 – 8:00 at Priest Lake Ranger Station in the Cookhouse.**
- Suggestion is if you can’t make this meeting, a similar meeting with similar material will be discussed at the Sandpoint meeting on Nov. 12th at 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the Federal Building.
- Subsequent meetings – **3rd Weds. of every month, next meeting would be Nov. 19th.**